

Ackerson Livestock Handling Facilities (56675) Proposed Action

Stanislaus National Forest
Groveland Ranger District
Tuolumne County, CA

The Ackerson Livestock Handling Facilities project would implement livestock management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution. Activities include construction of approximately 0.3 miles of fence and a corral (Figure 1). Existing range improvements for shipping livestock at Ackerson Meadow are within lands that are now owned and managed by Yosemite National Park. Shipping facilities on National Park Service lands are no longer available for use by the Forest Service permitted grazing operation. New range infrastructure have been identified that would improve livestock management and/or reduce resource damage on the Middle Fork grazing allotment, which encompasses the Ackerson Meadow area.

The Forest Service intends to prepare a Decision Memo for this proposal under the category: Implementation or modification of minor management practices to improve allotment condition or animal distribution when an allotment management plan is not yet in place [36 CFR 220.6(e)(9)].

The Proposed Action includes the following activities.

Fence Construction and Re-Construction

Reconstruct 0.2 miles of pre-existing fence and construct 0.1 miles of new fence at Ackerson Meadow in order to provide better control of livestock and more effectively implement late-season allotment management. Wildlife-friendly fence specifications will be used.

Corral

The existing shipping corral at Ackerson Meadow is no longer available for use by Forest service grazing permittee(s). A new corral on this allotment would improve livestock management on National Forest System Lands by facilitating gathering and shipping (removal) of livestock from the Middle Fork grazing allotment.

Scoping Process

Public participation is important at numerous points during project planning and analysis. The scoping intent is to share our initial proposal and seek information, comments, and assistance from federal, state, and local agencies and individuals or organizations that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. To accomplish this intent, we request your input and comments be submitted prior to November 15, 2019. Although you are encouraged to submit comments at any point during the planning process, input received prior to this date will be most useful in order for us to consider your comments and suggestions during project planning and analysis.

How to Comment

To assist in the development of this project, please provide comments via mail or e-mail. Input can be mailed to: Stanislaus National Forest Headquarters; Attn. Ackerson Livestock Handling Facilities; 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370. Submit comments electronically, in common formats (.doc, .pdf, .txt, .rtf), to comments-pacificsouthwest-stanislaus @fs.fed.us. Please use "Ackerson Livestock Handling Facilities" in the subject line. Names and addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. Please submit comments prior to November 15, 2019.

For additional information regarding this project, contact Dawn Coultrap at the Stanislaus National Forest; 19777 Greenley Road; Sonora, CA 95370; or, call (209) 288-6315.

